

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph number [0036] as follows:

[0036] Rinsing is commenced within the second treatment vessel. Following appropriate rinsing, the second treatment vessel is optionally cleaned and a DI water bath is formed in the second treatment vessel. A nitrogen stream that is laden with IPA vapor is fed into the second treatment vessel. Alternatively, an IPA stream with no nitrogen or other inert gas acting as a carrier is fed to the second treatment vessel. After a preferred period of time, a layer of IPA has formed upon the surface of the DI water bath to form an IPA-DI water interface. When a sufficient layer of IPA vapor has formed upon the surface of the DI water bath, the semiconductor structure is drawn out of the DI water bath at a rate that allows substantially all DI water, and contaminants therein, on the semiconductor structure to be entrained beneath the ~~IPA-DI~~IPA-DI water interface. Impurities in the DI water bath are substantially all retained in the DI water bath as the semiconductor structure is drawn through the IPA-DI water interface. By this method, unwanted oxidation incident to ambient exposure of the semiconductor structure is minimized, and unwanted water spotting incident to spin drying and to post-rinse atmospheric exposure is eliminated.